

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 189786

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, TC

SUBJECT: RIFLE PURCHASE BY DUBAI

WARNING - NOTICE - SENSITIVE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

REFS: (A) ABU DHABI 2046 (B) STATE 187456

1. UPON FURTHER STUDY, THERE ARE SOME ANOMALOUS ASPECTS TO THE REPORT QUOTED IN REFTEL B. FIRST, MUNITIONS CONTROL PROCEDURES ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT JUST SUCH UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFERS AS THAT REPORTED TO DUBAI. PROPOSED SALES OF M16S TO AGENTS ARE NEVER APPROVED; M16S ARE ONLY SOLD TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THE END USER GOVERNMENT MUST SIGN A NON-TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR ANY SIZEABLE SALE. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NO REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN EXPORT OF M16 RIFLES TO BELGIUM WHICH FITS THE DESCRIPTION OF THAT REPORTED. IF AND WHEN SUBMITTED, ANY SUCH REQUEST WILL RECEIVE EXCEPTIONALLY RIGOROUS STUDY, INCLUDING CIRCULARIZATION TO VARIOUS OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE

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DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL. BECAUSE OF PRIOR DIFFICULTIES WITH

MUNITIONS CONTROL IN BELGIUM, THIS EFFORT WOULD BE EXCEPTIONALLY CAREFUL.

2. WHILE M16S ARE ASSEMBLED ABROAD IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS,

EXPORTS OF THE CONSTITUENT PARTS FROM THE UNITED STATES ARE RIGOROUSLY CONTROLLED. MOREOVER, ANY SALES OF M16S BY FOREIGN ASSEMBLY PLANTS MUST BE APPROVED IN THE UNITED STATES. IN SHORT, WHILE ILLEGAL DIVERSIONS CANNOT BE RULED OUT, THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO STOP THEM.

3. THEREFORE, THE SHORT ANSWER TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 1 REFTEL A IS "NO" IN BOTH CASES. LICENSE REQUESTS, ESPECIALLY FOR LARGE SALES, RECEIVE RIGOROUS STUDY BEFORE APPROVAL. MOREOVER, SALES OF M16S ARE NEVER APPROVED FOR AGENTS OR INDIVIDUAL FIRMS.

4. ABOVE COMMENTS RAISE SOME REAL QUESTIONS AS TO THE ACCURACY OF REPORTED SALE OF M16S TO DUBAI. WE PROPOSE TO LEAVE IT TO AMBASSADOR'S DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER THE REPORTED DUBAI SALE SHOULD BE RAISED WITH GENERAL KHALDI. OUR FEELING IS THAT MENTIONING THE REPORTED TRANSFER IN PASSING WOULD HAVE THE SALUTORY EFFECT OF ALERTING FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS SHIPMENT CONTAINING M16S, WHICH MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED OUR CONTROLS.

5. AS TO THE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF M16S, AS WE SUGGESTED IN STATE 185802, DIRECT PROCUREMENT FROM THE MANUFACTURER CAN MEAN QUICKER DELIVERY DATES. WE UNDERSTAND PRICE TOO IS NEGOTIABLE, AND DEPENDING ON THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, MIGHT BE LOWER THAN FMS PRICE. IF DELIVERY DATE AND PRICE ARE CRUCIAL, DIRECT PROCUREMENT MIGHT INDEED BE ADVANTAGEOUS. IF, HOWEVER, AN OFFICIAL USG ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE MANUFACTURER AND THE FOREIGN PURCHASER IS DESIRED, THEN FMS PROCUREMENT IS THE BETTER CHOICE. KISSINGER

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